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CONSIDERATION OF THE POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF THE PERIOD OF SIGNATURE IN ARTICLE 57 OF THE INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER AGREEMENT, 1995

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The Executive Director of the International Natural Rubber Organization, after carrying out consultations with the Chairman and members of the present International Natural Rubber Council, has addressed a letter to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD conveying the wish of the members of the International Natural Rubber Agreement, 1987 to convene a fourth part of the United Nations Conference on Natural Rubber for one day as early as possible for the sole purpose of modifying the period of signature as contained in Article 57 of the International Natural Rubber Agreement, 1995. A copy of the letter is attached to this note.

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INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER ORGANIZATION

INRO

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Ref: UN/INRO/96

13th February 1996

Mr Rubens Ricupero
Secretary General of UNCTAD
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Palais des Nations
CH-1211, Geneve 10
Switzerland.

Dear Mr Ricupero,

The period of signature in Article 57 of the International Natural Rubber Agreement, 1995 expired on the 28th of December 1995. As of that date, the Agreement was signed by four (4) exporting countries representing about 94 per cent of the exports of natural rubber and by fifteen (15) importing countries and the European Union representing about 48 per cent of imports of natural rubber. The percentage of the importing countries falls short of the 75 per cent required on their part as set out in the Annexes to the Agreement for the provisional entry into force of the Agreement in accordance with Article 61 (2), after the signatory Governments concerned will have taken the required action in accordance with Article 60 and Article 59 of the Agreement.

I am of the view that the parties to INRA ,1987 are interested in continuing the International Natural Rubber Organization and therefore wish to bring the 1995 Agreement into force in the course of 1996. I believe that certain Governments were not able to sign the 1995 Agreement in time because of administrative delays in capitals. I understand that the Governments concerned will sign the 1995 Agreement, if they are given the opportunity to do so.

A course of action is to extend the period of signature as contained in Article 57 so as to enable the Governments which were not able to sign the Agreement by 28th December 1995 to do so. For this purpose, you could re-convene the United Nations Conference on Natural Rubber, 1994.

I have carried out consultations with the Chairman and members of the present International Natural Rubber Council on this matter. I now want to convey to you that the members of INRA, 1987 wish you to convene a fourth part of the United Nations Conference on Natural Rubber for one day as early as possible for the sole purpose of modifying the period of signature as contained in Article 57 of the International Natural Rubber Agreement, 1995.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Pong Sono
Executive Director.